open this for all countries so other people can qualify, but no, this is an India-specific legislation'.

(b) India has not solicited the support of American Jewish Organizations for the India-US civilian nuclear energy deal. It is regular Embassy practice to meet as many US organizations as possible, including think tanks, business organizations, universities, non-profit groups, and community bodies to advance India interests in the United States.

(c) As per usual practice with many other US bodies, it is not uncommon for the representatives of American Jewish Organizations to visit India and interact without representatives.

Criteria for classifying human dwellings as slums

326. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria of classifying a human dwelling as slum;

(b) whether such criteria take into account condition of dwellings, access to the clean water supply, power supply, sanitation and sewage and other civic amenities, if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether such criteria are inconformity with the international norms to define a slum;

(e) whether it is a fact that a large segment of Type I and II Government dwellings in Metropolitan cities could be termed as slums; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken to improve the living conditions in these dwellings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) The concept of slums and their definition vary considerably across the States depending upon the socio-economic conditions or local perceptions prevailing in the society. They are usually a cluster of hutments with

dilapidated and infirm structures having common toilet facilities, suffering from lack of basic amenities, inadequate arrangement for drainage, for disposal of solid wastes and garbage. These inadequacies make the living conditions in slums extremely suboptimal, unhygienic and results in usually higher incidence of air and water borne diseases for the dwellers.

(e) and (f) A large segment of Type-I and Type II Government dwellings under General Pool Residential Accommodation in Metropolitan cities could not be termed as slums.

Steep rise in prices of residential property

327. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a view of the escalation in residential property prices in metro and non-metro cities, the details of the trends in last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the increase in prices has been far steeper than the increase in income of large section of salaried class;

(c) whether Government monitored the role of property dealers and builders in the anomalous steep rise in prices of residential property; and

(d) whether Government propose to create a regulatory authority to organize the real estate sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The escalation in the prices of residential property in metro and non-metro cities is driven by market forces. The escalation is also due to increase in price of land, cement, steel and other building material during the last two years;.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In view of the large volumes of sales and purchases involved this is not possible.

(d) No, Sir.